

***For Immediate Release***

**BRI Hires New Clinical Research Director**

SEATTLE, WA—(Sept. 21, 2005)— Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason (BRI) announces the appointment of Consuelo Blosch, MD, as administrative director of the BRI Clinical Research Program. She will provide leadership for BRI and investigators at Virginia Mason Medical Center (VM) who conduct more than 200 clinical trials annually to test and find treatments to improve the lives of patients with disease.

Blosch brings experience with basic and clinical research that spans more than a decade and includes, most recently, director level appointments at Immunex and NPS Pharmaceuticals. Blosch joins BRI at a time of increased clinical trials and growth. “We are thrilled to have her join our team to help support one of the busiest research centers in the Pacific Northwest,” said Jack Nagan, executive director at BRI and vice president for research at VM.

Blosch graduated from the University of Massachusetts Medical School in 1987 and completed her Nephrology Fellowship at the University of Washington. She began her career in clinical research during her pediatric residency at Children’s Hospital and Medical Center in Seattle, and continued it at Immunex from 1992 to 1998. At Immunex she directed the soluble receptor program, which culminated in the approval of Enbrel. In 1999, she accepted a position at NPS Pharmaceuticals, in Salt Lake City, as the Director of clinical research. At NPS, she supervised a global program that focused on osteoporosis using recombinant human parathyroid hormone. While at NPS, she was appointed senior director of clinical research in 2002 and senior medical director of clinical drug safety and pharmacovigilance in 2003.

Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason is a non-profit research institute specializing in the study of the role of the immune

system and genetics in diseases such as diabetes, arthritis, cardiovascular disease and cancer, with a clinical research program which conducts approximately 200 clinical trials every year. A bench-to-bedside approach at BRI combines expertise in laboratory investigation with innovative clinical trials that allow for rapid testing of scientific findings to discover medical treatment advancements. Virginia Mason Medical Center, founded in 1920, is a non-profit comprehensive regional health care system that combines a primary and specialty care group practice of more than 400 physicians with a 336-bed acute care Seattle hospital.

For more information contact:  
Kim Davis  
Communications  
Benaroya Research Institute  
(206) 583.6451

# # #